

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

January 20, 2009

6:30 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, William Padien, Sean McGarry, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan, Davida Irving, and William Anderson were also in attendance.

New Business

A request to waive the facility use fees for Adult Education courses was received from Coordinator Amy Dugan. Several courses (Parenting Workshop, Latin Dance, Mac, Drumming, and Women's Literature II) are being offered this winter and are scheduled to run between January 12 and March 4. A motion (Padien, Hall) to waive the facility use fees for the adult education classes carried with a vote of 3-2 with Sean McGarry and Richard Tretheway voting in the negative. It was requested that the facility use fee policy and application be placed on the School Committee's March agenda.

Bids were received and opened publicly on Tuesday, January 13. Two bids were received to supply propane gas, one to provide bus transportation, and one for mowing.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to award the propane bid to Hull Suburban Propane at a fixed price of \$3 per gallon for the 2009-2010 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (McGarry, Butcher) to award the bus contract to Rice's Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$39,165 to provide bus transportation services for approximately 75 students for the 2009-2010 school year carried with a vote of 5-0. It was suggested that the contract with Rice's Construction Co. include an "opt-out" section if new legislation goes into effect next year that calls for a statewide bus contract. An amendment to the motion (Padien, Tretheway) to offer a single year contract with an opt-out clause if the governor's supplemental budget takes effect and to require proof of insurance and licenses as required by law carried with a vote of 5-0. A discussion regarding the oversight of the reimbursement for the bus' diesel fuel was held. Several suggestions were made, including paying the gas station in advance so the school department does not pay the taxes.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to award the 2009-2010 mowing bid to Greenscape Mowing Services in the amount of \$250 per mowing carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to open the 2008-09 fiscal year operating

budget for the purpose of transferring money to complete the roof repairs carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to transfer \$3000 from dental, \$1000 from media, and \$1000 from educational supplies to the capital line item carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to close the 2008-2009 operating budget carried with a vote of 5-0.

The Technology Proposal agenda item was tabled until the January 26, 2009, School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Ryan presented a proposed balanced budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. On the revenue side, Mrs. Ryan explained that the state aid of \$106,000 was included until notified that it will not be forthcoming. They are prepared if it must be deleted. No Title 1 funds will be received next year, but it is expected that \$26,883 will be received for IDEA. To date, there has been no notification that the Rural Education Grant will be continued next year.

In the Administration Department, William Padien suggested that the wages for the School Committee be removed. He discussed the possibility of removing the wages with the Town Manager and was told that as elected officials they are covered by the town's workers compensation. No legal bills have been received this fiscal year,

although a request for them was sent several weeks ago. Mr. Padien suggested that a second request be sent to the attorney.

In the Education Department the wages for teachers was reduced by a half-time special education teacher because of the fewer numbers of IEPs. The Special Education Director has been budgeted at two days per week or 70 days per year. A request of \$110,000 for next year's sports program was received from the Athletic Director, but this was reduced to \$90,000. The requested increase is for coaching stipends, uniforms, travel, referees/umpires, and to provide a more quality program for more students. Annie Hall requested that Mr. Closter investigate whether our coaches' stipends are above average in the state.

In the Special Education Department, which is new this year, it was noted that there is a savings of \$13,000 because both extended school year and staff development were listed twice. A request to increase the ASD Specialist line item from \$8,000 to \$15,000.00 would change the bottom line of that department \$64,000.

Shea Butcher requested that fuel oil and propane be two different line items in the Building and Maintenance Department to more accurately track the cost of each.

Mrs. Ryan reported that in the Capital Department there are no funds for furniture or kitchen equipment. A priority list of outside lighting,

sidewalks, the condition of the field, drainage of the playground, and more security items was developed. It was decided that the installation of outside lights to cover the parking lot should be addressed tomorrow.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 8:58 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: February 3, 2009